1883MNRAS..43Q.330.

Observations made at the U.S. Naval Observatory, Washington.
By Professor Asaph Hall.

(*Communicated by Vice-Admiral Rowan, Supt.*)

Conjunctions of the Satellites of Saturn.

Satellite.	Date.	Wash. M.T.	Position.	Wt.	Obs.
Mimas ...	1882, Oct. 5	13 11·4	S. foll.	3	H.
	Nov. 8	8 44·2	S.	2	F.
Enceladus ...	Oct. 5	13 6·4	S.	3	H.
	14	10 39·8	N.	1	H.
	Nov. 22	10 36·8	S.	3	F.
Tethys ...	Oct. 18	12 28·2	S.	3	H.
	20	9 41·6	N.	2	H.
	Nov. 21	10 40·8	S.	2	F.
	22	10 9·3	N.	3	F.
	23	9 54·8	S.	3	F.
	24	9 23·8	N.	3	F.
	Dec. 26	9 28·2	N.	2	H.
	28	6 41·8	N.	3	H.
	1883, Jan. 12	9 11·0	N.	3	H.
Dione ...	1882, Dec. 16	8 37·8	N.	2	F.
	1883, Jan. 11	8 36·4	S.	2	H
	22	7 20·4	S.	2	H.
Rhea ...	1882, Nov. 21	10 41·3	S.	2	F.
	1883, Jan. 12	9 25·5	N.	3	H.

The Companion of Sirius.

Date.	Sid. Time.	p.	s.	Wt.	Obs.
	h	°	″		
1883, Feb. 23	6·5	44·0	10·02	2	F.
27	6·8	40·6	10·01	3	F.
28	7·1	40·9	9·39	3	F.
Mar. 1	8·0	41·8	9·84	3	F.
7	6·6	40·4	9·53	3	F.
8	6·6	42·0	9·75	2	F.
9	7·2	40·3	9·74	2	F.
14	6·2	39·8	9·39	2	H.
16	6·2	38·7	9·12	3	H.
17	6·3	38·3	9·32	2	H.
18	6·2	39·5	9·19	3	H.
20	6·5	39·4	9·31	2	H.
21	6·6	38·9	9·23	2	H.

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Mean Results.

	p. °	*s.* ″	
1883·170	41·43	9·754	E. Frisby.
1883·211	39·10	9·260	A. Hall.

Remarks.—The observed conjunctions of the satellites of *Saturn* are with the minor axis of the ring. The wire of the micrometer was set parallel to this axis by means of the angle given in the *American Ephemeris*, p. 479. The conjunction of *Mimas* on October 5 was with the following end of the principal division of the ring.

Note on the Great Comet (b) 1882.

An examination of the nucleus of this comet in the latter part of February 1883, showed two bright points of condensation, with two fainter points, one on each side of the bright ones. These four points were in a right line, and the general appearance was nearly like that given by the drawing of Mr. Prince, *Monthly Notices*, January 1883, p. 85. The following of the two bright points seemed to be the brighter, and calling this point *a*, the other bright point *b*, the preceding faint point *c*, and the following faint point *x*, the following measures were made, the origin being at *a*; *c* and *x* were very faint:—

1883.	Sid. T. h	*p.* °	*a* to *b* ″	*b* to *c* ″	*a* to *x*	Obs.
Feb. 26	6·4	257·2	34·50	47·14	—	H.
27	6·0	258·8	34·58	48·99	22·27	H.

On the Visibility of the Dark Side of Venus.

By Prof. C. V. Zenger.

It is known that the first observation of the Moon's ashy light was made by Michel Maestlin in 1520, but the first observation has been also ascribed to Leonardo da Vinci, who died in that year.

A similar appearance was detected by Riccioli on January 9, 1643, on the planet *Venus* with the then discovered Galilean tube. He says: "Erat planeta Solem versus rubicunda in medio flavescens et in parte a Sole aversa cæruleo-viridis, sed illa varietas a vitro tubi probabiliter fuit." The following passage seems to indicate a very fine state of the weather: "Semi-annulus lucidus, quo a tergo coronabatur, erat forte a *Jove* et *Saturno* illam illustrantibus, utpote orientalioribus" (*Almagestum novum*). It is obvious that the reddish hue may have been partly due to the chromatic aberration of the tube, but the

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